

CLAIMS

1. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user comprising the following steps:

retaining user preferences;

retaining a list of possible contacts; said list comprising at least identifying information and available images of said contacts;

searching said list of possible contacts to select a potential contact based on said user preferences,

retaining potential contacts selected during said search, and

displaying to the user an available image or other identifying information of a potential contact.

2. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said user preferences comprise either preferences input by the user or pre-selected default preferences.

3. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said user preferences comprise any of: professional or personal contact, automatic or manual preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, and maximum number of candidates to select.

4. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said list of contacts further comprises any of: name, organization, work address, home address, telephone numbers, pager numbers, cellular numbers, e-mail address, personal or professional identifiers, special dates, and contact dates.

5. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said searching step is initiated either manually by the user or automatically by a time-based reference in the user preferences.

6. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claims 3, wherein said time-based reference comprises any of: frequency of contact, time between contacts or calendar-based contact.

7. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 5, wherein said automatic initiation of said searching step comprises: comparing applicable time-based references stored in said user preferences with a timer module, and upon a positive comparison, initiating said search step.

8. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said selection of a potential contact in said search step is either random or based on a select algorithm.

1 9. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per
 2 claim 1, wherein said search step is repeated until a maximum number of candidates for
 3 selection has been achieved.

1 10. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per
 2 claim 1, wherein said displaying step further comprises insertion of said contact image or
 3 identifying information into a GUI.

1 11. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per
 2 claim 10, wherein said GUI comprises an electronic organizer.

1 12. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per
 2 claim 1, wherein said method may be implemented locally or remotely on one or more
 3 computer-based systems, across networks or existing communication mediums.

1 13. A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per
 2 claim 12, wherein said across networks element comprises any of LANs, WANs, cellular,
 3 Internet or Web-based networks.

1 14. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, said system
 2 comprising:
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4 user preferences stored in computer storage;

5 a contact list stored in computer storage, said contact list comprising at least
 6 identifying information and available images of said contacts;

7 a manual request unit;

8 a time-based request unit;

9 a display module;

10 a search module, said search module determining the candidates to be selected;

11 a request processor, said processor detecting an invocation output from said manual
 12 request unit or said time-based request unit and initiating said search module to select
 13 one or more possible contacts, and

14 wherein said selected candidates are stored in computer storage and processed to
 15 display, by said display module, said selected contact image or information to the

user.

1 15. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14,
 2 wherein said user preferences comprise either preferences input by the user or pre-selected
 3 default preferences.

16. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said user preferences comprise any of: professional or personal contact, automatic or manual preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, and maximum number of candidates to select.

17. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said list of contacts further comprises any of: name, organization, work address, home address, telephone numbers, pager numbers, cellular numbers, e-mail address, personal or professional identifiers, special dates, and contact dates.

18. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said time-based reference comprises any of: frequency of contact, time between contacts or calendar-based contact.

19. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 16, wherein said automatic initiation of said selection by said search module comprises: comparing applicable time-based references stored in said user preferences with said timer module, and upon a positive comparison, initiating said search.

20. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein selection of a possible contact is either random or based on a select algorithm.

1 21. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14,
 2 wherein said one or more contacts are obtained by repeated execution of said search until a
 3 maximum number of candidates for selection has been achieved.

1 22. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14,
 2 wherein said displaying further comprises insertion of said contact image or identifying
 3 information into a GUI.

1 23. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 22,
 2 wherein said GUI comprises an electronic organizer.

1 24. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14,
 2 wherein said system may be implemented locally or remotely on one or more computer-
 3 based systems, across networks or existing communication mediums.

1 25. A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 24,
 2 wherein said across networks element comprises any of LANs, WANs, cellular, Internet or
 3 Web-based networks.

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26. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact comprising computer programmable code implementing:

retaining default or user selected preferences;

retrieving a list of possible contacts; said list comprising at least identifying information and available images of said contacts;

selecting a number of possible candidates to be presented;

identifying a specific method of possible candidate selection;

manually or automatically initiating a search for one or more possible candidates based on said user preferences, available candidates and method of selection, and wherein said one or more candidates are presented visually to the user as a suggestion for contact.

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27. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said user preferences comprise any of: professional or personal contact, automatic or manual preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, and maximum number of candidates to select.

28. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said list of contacts further comprises any of: name, organization, work address, home address, telephone numbers, pager numbers, cellular numbers, e-mail address, personal or professional identifiers, special dates, and contact dates.

29. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said automatically initiating a search is based on a time-based reference in the user preferences.

30. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 29, wherein said time-based reference comprises any of: frequency of contact, time between contacts or calendar-based contact.

31. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 29, wherein said automatically initiating a search comprises: comparing applicable time-based references stored in said user preferences with a timer function, and upon a positive comparison, initiating said search.

1 32. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for
 2 selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein
 3 said selection of a possible contact in said search step is either random or based on a select
 4 algorithm.

1 33. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for
 2 selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein
 said search step is repeated until a maximum number of candidates for selection has been
 achieved.

40802297 34. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for
 selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein
 said presenting visually to the user step further comprises insertion of said contact image or
 identifying information into a GUI.

1 35. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for
 2 selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 34, wherein
 3 said GUI comprises an electronic organizer.

1 36. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for
2 selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein
3 said process may be implemented locally or remotely on one or more computer-based
4 systems, across networks or existing communication mediums.

1 37. An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for
2 selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 36, wherein
said across networks element comprises any of LANs, WANs, cellular, Internet or Web-
based networks.